

2016-2017 BUDGET QUESTION

Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT: Fire

REQUEST NO.: 24

REQUESTED BY: Garza

DATE REQUESTED: 5/18/16

DATE POSTED: 5/25/16

REQUEST: Please provide an update to the FY 2016 Council Budget Question No. 83 for FY 2017. It stated, "Please provide a status update regarding which fire stations have comparable restroom and locker room facilities for men and women, and an expected timeline for when equal facilities will be added to any remaining fire stations that have yet to be updated. Please provide a description of any processes in place to ensure quality control including a history of inspections and reports regarding conditions of existing equal facilities."

RESPONSE: At present, 33 of 45 Austin Fire Department (AFD) stations have "adequate, private shower, locker, and toilet facilities for all firefighters" – the standard listed in the Project Description of the AFD Locker Room Project. These 33 stations include those onto which separate women's facilities have been added, as well as newer stations, built to incorporate unisex, single-user facilities.

The current phase of the AFD Locker Room Project (Phase 5) will feature locker room/ bathroom additions to Stations 5, 7, 22, 24, 26 and 27. The design phase is nearly complete for these six stations, and construction is scheduled for completion in March 2018 rather than "late 2016 or early 2017" as we stated last budget cycle. The delay to the Phase 5 construction schedule is the result of joining the locker room project to an EMS construction project in order to make a larger bid package. Public Works indicated that the combination should make the project more attractive to larger, more capable construction firms.

The other development since last year is the completion of the Phase 6 feasibility study. A feasibility study for the remaining stations (Stations 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 16) has been done and this last project phase (Phase 6) is unfunded. AFD estimates the cost at \$12.1 million. The Phase 6 stations are built on small lots, which limits the options of adding locker room space to the station footprint. We are recommending an approach in which the stations are reconfigured to incorporate individual bedrooms with lockers and single-user bathrooms with showers.